

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /077 W
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R 181158Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 987
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8639

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, XF
SUBJECT: DEC. 18 SYRIAN MEDIA FOCUS ON ASAD VISIT TO CAIRO

1. MEDIA CITED LEBANESE REPORTING ON RETURN OF PRIMIN
HUSS TO BEIRUT PREVIOUS EVENING TO REPORT TO PRES. SARKIS
ON HIS VISIT TO DAMASCUS. PRESS REPORTED SARKIS CONTINUING
HIS CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS LEBANESE PERSONALITIES TO OVERCOME
OBSTACLES IN PATH OF RESUMING NORMAL WORK IN PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE SECTORS.

2. ON REGIONAL FRONT, MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED TRAVEL OF ASAD
TO CAIRO. PRESS BANNERED: "ASAD-SADAT MEETING IN CAIRO
TODAY PERSONIFIED OCT. SPIRIT AND CONSOLIDATED CONFIDENCE
IN VICTORY." ARTICLE REPORTED THAT ARAB POLITICAL CIRCLES
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IN CAIRO LOOK FORWARD TO ACHIEVING "UNIFIED MOVE
ON PEACE FRONT. VISIT IS START OF GREAT ARAB ACTIVITY
ON ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO SECURE UNIFIED ARAB
POSITION TOWARD INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS FOR REACTIVATING
WORK FOR SAKE OF SETTLING QUESTIONS RELATED TO
SITUATION IN ME." SANA DISPATCH FROM CAIRO NOTED THAT

MEETING CAME AT IMPORTANT STAGE OF PREPARATION FOR
CONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH PALESTINIAN ATTENDANCE
BEFORE END OF MARCH 1977. MEETING EXPECTED TO PUT
FINISHING TOUCHES ON JOINT ARAB PLAN TO SUPPORT UN RES.
URGING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN
STATE.

3. AL-THAWRAH CITED REPORTS FROM BEIRUT THAT ORGANIZATION
CALLING ITSELF FREE ORGANIZATION OF IRAQ CLAIMED
RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXPLOSION AT BAGHDAD AIRPORT. FOI
ASSERTED THAT IRAQI VERSION OF INCIDENT (ASSIGNING
FULL CREDIT TO SYRIAN REGIME FOR PLANNING EXPLOSION) WAS
FABRICATED. SPOKESMAN FOR FOI TOLD LEBANESE MEDIA
REPS. OVER PHONE THAT OPERATION DIRECTED AGAINST SADDAM
HUSSEIN.
MURPHY

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NNN

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